the sense of road safety among various road users and children.

Identification of ports for exports/Imports under Advance Licence Scheme

2526. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Customs Collectorate had identified five small ports in Veraval, Sikka, Jaffarabad and Navlakhi in Saurashtra and Mandvi in Kutch more reasonable for exports and imports under Advance Licences Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have been urged to develop these ports which are more beneficial to the State as well as to the country;

(c) whether Central Government have taken any steps to improve the ports and provide facilities of Rail, STD. and drinking water etc; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Central Government for development of these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Gujarat have initiated action to develop these Ports

(d) Government of Gujarat has taken up development work for improving/increasing Port facilities from their own resources as per requiements of the trade.

Road Accidents in India

2527. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a road accident every minute in India and every 10 minutes one person dies on the road; and

(b) if so, what enforcement strategies based on the scientific study of accidents and causative factors are being planned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is taking all possible steps to control road accidents. For this purpose, a special cell has been created in the Ministry of Surface Transport. Police Departments have been taking various steps including awareness campaigns to check road accidents and these measures will continue to be taken in the future also. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to the State Govts. for strengthening their awareness/publicity campaigns. The Government has also provided driving training Simulators to four States. Besides, it is also proposed to supply Vehicle Testing Equipments and Portable Weigh Bridges to some States. The State Governments have also been requested to set up Committees at the State and District levels in terms of Section 215 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. Besides it, the steps taken|being taken to minimise the accidents are given in the Statement.

Statement

The steps taken/being taken include—

1. The M.V. Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for stricter requirements in respect of issuance of driving licences, and stringent penalties for offences.

2. Formal training in a driving school is made a pre-requisite for issuance of licence to drive transport vehicles.

3. Maximum safe laden weights have been prescribed for trucks including light commercial vehicles.

4. Maximum speed limits have been prescribed for all vehicles except light motor vehicles.

5. Uniform intervals for checking the fitness of vehicles have been prescribed throughout the country.

6. It is presribed that road safety devices would be fitted in the vehicles viz. direction indicators with blinker system for vehicles, special lables on carriages carrying dangerous or hazardous goods.

7. A National Road Safety Council has been set up for formulation of road safety measures. State Govts. were also requested to set up State level road safety councils.

8. Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.

9. Regular special drive against rash and negligent driving, driving without driving licences, drunken driving, defective headlingts, over-spreedig, overloading etc.

10. Regular prosecution of violation through issue of notices.

11. School children are regularly imparted necessary training|education in the schools about the rules of the roads and related safety aspects by the road safety cell of Delhi Traffic Police.

12.Introduction of blinkers|signals at accidents prone areas.

13. Prosecution through Radar Gund.

14. More Police presence in accident prone areas.

15. Special morning drives and night mobile patrolling.

16. Use of Doordarshan|AIR|Press for giving wide pulicity on road safety.

17. Painting of bus boxes yellow boxes.

18. Special night checking on Highways.

19. Speial drive against buses, HTVs, TSRs Taxis etc.

20. Painting competitions and other road safety activities are being organised by Road Safety Cell to inculcate the sense of road safety among various road users and children.

Suggestions on Improvement of Maritime Training

2528. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study by the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD) on critical issues in the global context of the Indian shipping industry has suggested that the training of seafaring personnel need to undergo radical changes in view of the technological changes taking place in this sector particularly the replacement of functional compartmentalisation of crew into deck and engine duties by multipurpose crew in line with the practice being followed increasingly in the merchant fleets of developed countries;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being take to bring about necessary changes in the maritime training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The report of the Asian Institute of Transport Development on critical issues in the global context of the Indian Shipping Industry has not been submitted to the Government. However, in October, 91 the Government of India had constituted an Expert Committee on Maritime Education and Training for updating the training facilities. This Committee has recommended a Conversion Course for the ratings from Deck to Engine Room and vice-versa. Government have accepted this recommendation. Such multipurpose crew are available even at present and are made available to the shipping Companies depending on their requirements.